

2007-12-20

## The Weekly Challenger : 2007 : 12 : 20

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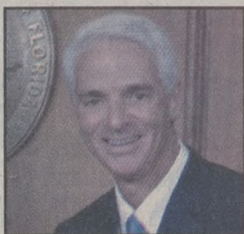
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PASTORS CORNER  
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# The Weekly Challenger

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VOLUME 40 NUMBER 16

DECEMBER 20 - DECEMBER 26, 2007

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA



## Happy Holidays



From

The Weekly Challenger



### Kwanzaa: African American Celebration Of Family, Community And Culture

BY JOYCE NANETTE JOHNSON  
CHALLENGER CORRESPONDENT

The celebration of Kwanzaa was born during the turbulent 1960's civil rights movement. Today it has become a mainstream celebration enjoyed by nearly 18 million people worldwide. In 1966, Kwanzaa founder Dr. Maulana Karenga, who was then leader of the Black Nationalist U.S. Organization, began the holiday as a way for African Americans to acknowledge, strengthen, and celebrate their heritage, family, and community. Dr. Karenga wanted to reaffirm

and re-unite African Americans to their native African culture and customs. Kwanzaa also incorporates economic empowerment and self-improvement as two of its most important tenets.

The word "Kwanzaa" comes from the phrase "matundanya kwanza," which means first fruits. It is said that Karenga added an additional "a" to Kwanzaa as a way to differentiate between the African American and the African holiday. He felt it was also important for the word to have seven letters to represent

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## It's "Hats Off To Christmas" At The Holiday Cookie Swap

BY SELMA ROBINSON-AYERS  
SPECIAL TO THE CHALLENGER

It was "Hats Off" indeed on Saturday, December 1, 2007 at the Annual Holiday Cookie Swap as 20 cookie swappers and four guests descended upon the home of hostess Naomi Nesbitt for an evening of sharing cookies and kindness. Now in its 23rd year, the Holiday Cookie Swap is the continuation of a childhood tradition by Selma Robinson-Ayers wherein she baked cookies alongside her mother and packaged them in pretty containers for gift giving during the holidays. In addition to swapping cookies, the party also incorporates Selma's childhood fantasy of getting dressed in her finest jewels and furs, serving tea and cookies to her teddy bears, and presenting them with handcrafted gifts at Christmas time. Today, the fantasy is a reality; and the teddy bears are now friends who bake dozens of cookies to share at a party that is more than Selma could have ever imagined!

The theme for this year's Cookie Swap was "Hats Off to Christmas" and as founder, Selma Robinson-Ayers left no stone unturned in assuring that the theme was carried out in every aspect of the event. The invitation (which she designed and created by hand) was a red Santa hat card trimmed with fur

and imprinted with black lettering and gold-leaf edging. For the craft show, Selma continued the "Hats Off" theme with a red and white metallic Santa hat ornament trimmed in white marabou fur, which members would personalize as a cherished 2007 Cookie Swap memento. She also designed "Rolling Pin" Awards and prepared framed gingerbread & Santa hat certificates for "Best Cookie", "Best Package" and "Best Hat" winners. Lastly, she designed containers for her cookies using red velvet baskets, and attaching black Santa heads to the front with pointy red hats and long white beards.

For Naomi Nesbitt, the week was a flurry of activity from polishing the silver and assembling the crystal to trimming the tree and planning the menu. Most assuredly, the "Holiday Cookie Swap" is the Taj Mahal of parties in that the affair consists of several unique party venues all rolled into one: a cookie party; dinner party; tea party; craft show; an entertainment and talent show; gift exchange and an awards ceremony.

As the clock struck 6:30 p.m., one by one, members began arriving shortly thereafter in festive attire carrying beautifully decorated baskets, boxes, and bags - all with cookie packages in tow. Following the "Gathering," Cookie Swap



Attendees of the "Holiday Cookie Swap" gather on the grand stairway for a group photograph

members and guests were welcomed by the founder and everyone was presented with a plush red velvet Santa hat which was proudly donned throughout the affair, then removed during the "Hats Off" Entertainment portion of the party.

During the Dinner Party,

attendees dined on winter salad, rock Cornish hens with cornbread stuffing, rice pilaf, zesty green beans Florentine and mouth-watering cakes created by the hostess' sister (Sheryl

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## "The Great Debaters" Honors Black Oral Tradition



Oprah Winfrey and Denzel Washington out and about promoting their new film "The Great Debaters".

BY GEORGE E CURRY  
NNPA COLUMNIST

About a decade ago, conservative commentator Armstrong Williams and I were debating the issue of affirmative action at a branch of North Carolina State University. "May I ask you a question?" Williams uttered. "You just did," I curtly replied. "Well, may I ask you another one?" Williams continued. "You just did that, too," I retorted. When Williams became visibly agitated, I knew I had disrupted his train of thought and would easily win the

debate.

No, I didn't learn that technique from the talking heads on TV. I learned that in my debate classes at Knoxville College in the late 1960s. There are many settings in which debating skills can be helpful, whether it is in thinking clearly, developing refined arguments or effectively making a point.

When "The Great Debaters," starring and directed by Denzel Washington and produced by Oprah Winfrey opens in theaters on Christmas Day, I am hoping it will have a revolutionary impact

on young people and give them a better appreciation for effective communication.

Sometimes I wonder what Mr. Austin, my debate teacher at Knoxville College, or Mrs. Malinda Prude, one of my English teachers at Druid High School in Tuscaloosa, Ala., would say about how our young people express themselves today. I'm no prude yet I am astonished by the vulgarity and plain incoherence I hear, whether listening to teens

**DEBATERS**  
continued on pg. A7



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Rosalie Peck ..... Executive Editor  
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Antoine Demmings ..... Graphic Artist  
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### The Weekly Challenger Office:

2500 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33705

(727) 896-2922

Fax (727) 823-2568

Email:

generalmanager@theweeklychallenger.com

www.theweeklychallenger.com

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All news items, advertising copy and related art submitted for publication on Thursday must be at the office of *The Weekly Challenger* no later than 4 p.m. Monday

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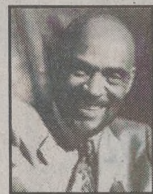
## The Weekly Challenger Newspaper

### We Value Diversity. We Value Education. We Value History.

- A knowledge of history brings a feeling of fellowship that runs through the ages — be it a territory, a village, a district, or a nation.
- To live without history is likened to living without a form of memory.
- To be without history is to live without roots or a past, with the present having no real foundation, and very little meaning for the future.
- To know the events of our past (can help us) to know what future events can be.
- *The Weekly Challenger* is committed to featuring articles of all ethnic cultures for the reading enjoyment of both the young and old generations.

# OPINION

## Drop State Charges Against Vick



BY EARL OFARI  
HUTCHINSON

Even the most rabid Michael Vick loathers can't argue with the toss the book sentence that Federal Judge Henry E. Hudson hurled at the tumbled former football great. The 23 month sentence he got exceeded the recommendation by federal prosecutors, the sentences his co-defendants got, and the average sentence for this type of crime that's spelled out in federal sentencing guidelines. Given the intense hysteria of legions of animal lovers at Vick, he'll likely serve the bulk of his jail time. But the punishment is overly harsh. Vick is a first time offender. He expressed remorse, publicly apologized, shelled out nearly a million bucks for the upkeep of the impounded animals, and likely won't play another down in the NFL. Vick's life and career is wrecked.

That's exactly why Virginia's Surrey County Commonwealth Attorney Gerald Poindexter should do the right legal and personal thing and drop the state prosecution of Vick. The trial is currently scheduled for April 2. In fact, state charges should never have been brought. This was a federal case from day one. The

evidence of conspiracy and trafficking in dog fighters across state lines was overwhelming. Professional dog fighting almost always involves interstate transit of the dogs to the fighting matches and events.

There's also the troubling fact that while state prosecutors talk a good game about cracking down on the dog fighting top cats, they are still notoriously lax in prosecuting, let alone tossing the book at many of them. The near textbook example of that is the case involving the wealthy and legendary dog fighting father and son kingpins Floyd and Guy Boudreaux in Louisiana. Two years after their arrest on dog fighting related charges, they are still walking free with no sign that the state is sprinting to court to get them in a docket. PETA or the Humane Society of the U.S. that turned out their throngs to curse and wave signs at Vick in front of federal court in Virginia have given absolutely no indication that they have or will mount a national crusade to nail them, or that they have even raised a peep nationally about the glacial pace of the state's prosecution of them. There was a brief article on the Humane Society's web site on the case two years ago, and that's it.

The stiff federal sentence dumped on Vick amply sent the message that a rich, famous, sports glitz figure won't be treated any differently than the average Joe that breaks the law. But none of that means much to PETA, and it certainly didn't mean anything to state prosecutors. Despite their weak and disingenuous protest that they went after Vick solely because he broke state law, they didn't. It was politics and race. They figured that no one could dare say that race or celebrity had anything to do with the state indictment of Vick since four of the six grand jurors are African-American and were not in celebrity awe of him.

The race and celebrity card in reverse play doesn't mean much. It defies belief to think that if Vick had been an average African American guy that the black jurors or Poindexter would have wasted countless hours pouring over his case and ultimately leveled an indictment at him. The fed charges were heavy duty enough and there was every sign that he would not waltz away with the standard celebrity pass hand slap sentence. It meant that Vick's punishment would have more than fit the magnitude of his crimes. That should have ended the matter for the state,

and in most cases it does.

Fed and state officials almost always maintain a rigid church and state separation when it comes to prosecuting cases. The rare times that fed and state prosecutors stray onto each others turf is when the state fails to get a conviction in high profile politically or legally compelling racial cases that stoke public rage and scream for federal action. The Rodney King beating case and the old 1960s civil rights related racial murder cases are textbook examples of that. The feds retry these cases but on separate civil rights charges. The prosecutors that do the straying almost always are the feds. Even Beltway sniper John Muhammad, though there was strong suspicion that he left a trail of murder victims in other states, the states deferred prosecution of him to Virginia and Maryland. Muhammad's conviction and death sentence rendered another state's prosecution of him moot.

With Vick, the same rule and logic should apply. There's no compelling interest or reason to pile on another prosecution of Vick. Fairness and common legal sense must prevail. Virginia should drop charges against Vick, and drop them now.

## Giving - The True Gift of Christmas



BY MARIAN  
WRIGHT  
EDELMAN  
NNPA COLUMNIST

Christmas is a festive time when many families come together, homes are decorated with trees hung with ornaments and lights and sumptuous dinners are prepared. Christmas also can be, for a variety of reasons, a time of stress. One source of stress is the oppression of the shopping list. The longer the list, the greater the anxiety — what shall I get for this niece or that cousin or friend? How do I avoid giving a gift that's too similar to what I gave last year? And of course there are the demands of children who want the latest video game or electronic gadget. Bending to the pressure, many of us join the legions of shoppers hunched over and weighted down by bags full of holiday things.

Amidst it all, we lose sight of the meaning of Christmas. We forget to tell our children why we give gifts in the first place — the story Christians believe about the first Christmas gift to the world of the Prince of Peace. When He walked on the Earth, He

spoke to us of the gifts that really matter: "For I was hungry, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me." This message of giving speaks to what's good in and required of all of us.

Christmas is a time to enrich the lives of our children by sharing with them the joy and gift of giving. This can be done in many ways. While shopping with your children, have them select a toy to give to a poor child. Some time during the Christmas season, take your children to a homeless shelter or soup kitchen and volunteer to help prepare or serve food. Bake together a few dozen cookies and take them to your local children's hospital or nursing home.

There are many in need not only in our own communities but in our global community. I'm reminded of the wonderful children's story of Beatrice's Goat by Page McBrier about a young Ugandan girl whose dream of going to school seems out of reach because her family is poor. But things change for Beatrice when

her family is selected to receive a goat from Heifer International, a program that provides livestock to those in need around the world. After months dutifully tending the goat and selling its milk at the market, Beatrice finally has enough money to pay for books and a school uniform. Then one day, dressed in her new school uniform, after taking the goat's milk to market, Beatrice makes her way to her first day of school.

You can participate in the Heifer International program (heifer.org) by giving a struggling family in another land the gift of a goat, alpaca, camel, cow, donkey, horse, llama, pig, sheep, a water buffalo, yak, honey bees, a school of fish or a flock of chickens, ducks or geese. The lives of the receiving family will be improved economically by the wool, eggs, milk or honey provided by the animals.

In exchange, the receiving family promises to pass the first offspring on to another family — it's called "Passing on the Gift." This living chain of giving is a dynamic and sustainable approach to grassroots economic development.

The gift of a dairy goat (at \$120) can supply a family several quarts of

nutritious milk a day — a ton of milk a year. Extra milk can be sold or used to make cheese, butter or yogurt. Goats can thrive in extreme climates and on poor, dry land by eating grass and leaves. Because goats often have two or three kids a year, Heifer partners can help lift themselves out of poverty by starting small dairies that earn money for food, health care and education. Geese (at \$20) are easy to care for. They don't require much shelter and can adapt to most climates. They can lay up to 75 eggs a year providing a ready source of protein and income.

My grandchildren picked the animals they wanted me to give in their honor with great excitement! This year I'm also buying my grandchildren three banks each for Christmas: one for saving, one for spending, and one for sharing. I hope this will teach them the value of thrift and how to share their good fortune with others. I also hope this will help them understand the true meaning of Christmas.

For more information on the Children's Defense Fund, please visit [childrensdefense.org](http://childrensdefense.org)

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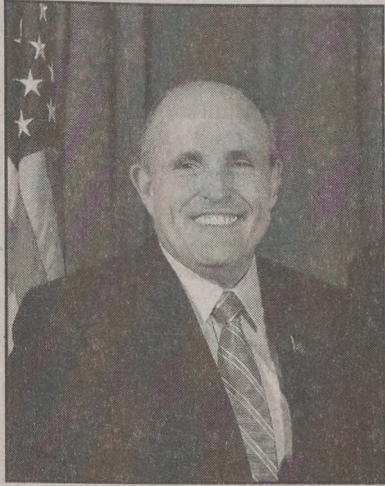
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# LOCAL NEWS

## Giuliani Retools Stump Speech, Saying The Nation Needs Bold



Rudy Giuliani

BY BRENDAN FARRINGTON

TAMPA (AP) - Republican presidential candidate Rudy Giuliani's "bold" vision for the nation sounded a lot like the same ideas he's been talking about for months, but delivered in a new package Saturday.

Giuliani's address before about 200 people was billed by his campaign as a new speech that shows the former New York mayor's bold vision for the future of the country.

But the 30-plus minute speech hit on similar themes: a little Hillary Rodham Clinton bashing, some reflections on the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, a call to make energy independence as big a priority as landing on the moon was in the 1960s, and the need to fight terrorism so the United States can be safe and do more business in the Middle East.

And the theme throughout was that he has shown the lead-

ership needed to be president.

"Tested, ready, now. America needs a leader," Giuliani said as he began the speech.

The address comes after a rough few weeks for Giuliani. The police commissioner he appointed in 2000 and pushed for the post of head of Homeland Security, Bernard Kerik, was indicted on federal charges that include lying to the White House, corruption and filing false income tax returns.

The speech was delivered in the state Giuliani is counting on to give him a boost ahead of his GOP rivals on Feb. 5, when more than 20 states will hold primaries and caucuses. Giuliani is trailing badly in Iowa, which holds its caucus Jan. 3, and dueling for second in several polls in New Hampshire, which votes Jan. 8, and is in a tight race in South Carolina, which holds its primary Jan. 19.

Florida is voting Jan. 29, and Giuliani has made the state a prime focus, visiting frequently and quickly showing support for a national insurance backup fund a top priority for Gov. Charlie Crist.

Throughout the speech, he described the country he wants to leave for the next president one where parents have school choice, the borders are secure, citizens are safer and government doesn't overspend.

"I've faced adversity

before, I've led in situations that seemed hopeless and dire. In need of a miracle, I don't just pray for miracles, I expect miracles," Giuliani said.

He also criticized Democratic candidate Clinton's universal health care plan, saying, "We'll hand over a country where decisions about your health care are made between you and your doctor, not between you and a Hillary-care custodian."

He promised tax cuts, envisioned selling more American products to China and India and said the United States can win over the Middle East by promoting ideas and ideals and understanding that the vast majority of people there share the same values as Americans, like loving their families and wanting to be safe.

While the United States has to stabilize Iraq and Afghanistan and stop Iran from becoming a nuclear power, it also must embrace "people in the Middle East, in the Arab world, in the Islamic world," he said. "We've got to reach out to them, we've got to get to know them better, we have to get them to know us better, we have to do more business."

Giuliani said he will stop illegal immigration, but he wants to have "an America that's open to the world" legally. He also said he'd abolish the inheritance tax.

## KWANZAA *continued from front page*

important for the word to have seven letters to represent what Karenga called the "seven principles of blackness. There are seven principles, known as nguzo saba, of Kwanzaa that encompass the entire scope and meaning of this fast growing tradition. The seven principles are unity (umoja); self-determination (kujichagulia); collective work and responsibility (ujima); cooperative economics (ujamaa); purpose(nia); creativity( kuumba), and faith (imani).

The Kwanzaa celebration has its own symbols, just like other holidays, however each of its' seven symbols are used to represent a concept of African culture. There is usually a display that incorporates the symbols such as using fruit or vegetables to designate

the symbol of the African harvest(mazao) and the reward of productive and collective labor; or the mat (mkeka), which is a symbol of our black tradition and history; the displaying of corn which is a symbol of our children and the future. A kinara, or candle holder, with the seven candles representing the symbol of the nguzo saba is also prominently displayed along with the giving of gifts, zawadi, which represents the love and labor of parents and the commitments made and kept by the children. One of the alternatives of the symbols is the displaying of the black flag with its vibrant colors of black, red, and green. Racial revolutionary Marcus Garvey wanted the colors of the flag to be indicative of the plight of blacks and their part of the civil rights struggle.

Black is for the people, red is for their struggle and green is to represent the future hope.

Kwanzaa is celebrated from December 26th through January 1st. Many private homes and community centers are now taking part in this newly established custom. Kwanzaa has become so entrenched in modern culture that in 1997 the first Kwanzaa stamp was issued by the u.s. post office. There is usually a feast, or what is known as a karamu, held on December 31st. The occasion is usually broken down into different parts including remembering, reassessment, recommitment, and rejoicing. The entire joyous affair usually is accompanied by rhythmic, native drumming, inspiring musical selections, and the sharing of ethnic food dishes.

## SAVE THE DATE !

National Council of Negro Women, Inc

22nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Leadership Breakfast

**Jeff Lyash, President/CEO  
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**Date: Monday, January 21, 2008**

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**National Council of Negro Women, Inc.  
St. Petersburg Metropolitan Section  
Signora Farris, President**

On January 21, 2008 St. Petersburg will celebrate the national holiday honoring Dr. King's legacy of tolerance, peace, and equality.

Co-Sponsored by City of St. Petersburg

## Boyd Hill Winter Day Camps January 2 Through 4

ST. PETERSBURG - Boyd Hill Nature Preserve will offer Pioneer Camp for children ages seven through 13 and Young Naturalist Camp for children ages five through six during winter break, January 2-4.

At Pioneer Camp, campers experience a time when family, friendship and integrity were as important as food, water and shelter. Challenging games and crafts help make memories to be shared. Pioneer Camp is located in Pioneer Hall at Boyd Hill's Environmental Studies Area, 3130 31st Street South. Young

Naturalist Campers enjoy a day filled with exciting and educational activities including plant and animal studies, nature hikes, crafts, and bird and wildlife watching. Young Naturalist Camp is at Oak Hall, located at 2900 31st Street South.

Also this year, Florida Wildlife Camp will be offered for children ages seven through 11 at the Lake Maggiore Environmental Education Center, located at 1101 Country Club Way South.

All camps are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with extended care

available from 8 to 9 a.m. and from 4 to 5 p.m. Space is limited and advance payment is required to hold a reservation. Campers must provide their own non-refrigerated lunch, drinks and snacks (morning and afternoon). Comfortable clothing should be worn. Closed shoes are required, no sandals are allowed. Sunscreen, hat and insect repellent are optional. Applications are available at <http://www.stpete.org/boyd/daycamps.htm> or at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, 1101 Country Club Way South.

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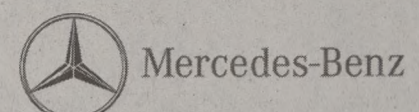


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# LOCAL NEWS

## KIDS CORNER

Hello all you Kids Corner readers! My topic today is "Best Friends."

Best friends are there to comfort you in rough times and discuss things going on around you. Have you ever had a friend who likes to joke? Have you ever got mad at them because their joking was annoying and it drove you insane? There are times when joking pushes you over the edge like the movie "Happy Feet" the penguin says, "Don't push me because I am close to the edge."

There is a limit to joking and when someone goes over that limit it can cause hurt feelings. I

had a friend who said some things to me that were hurtful. But instead of fighting back I blew it off. When she realized I was not bothered by her jokes and that I can find other friends that I can count on, she realized that her joking had gone too far. She came back and apologized. I let her know that I don't appreciate that type of joking.

You have to make the decision to stand up for yourself or people will try and bring you down.

Write and tell me about your best friend experience. Send your letters to: Treniece Greene, c/o The Weekly Challenger, 2500 Dr.



**Treniece Green**  
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## HOLIDAY continued from front page

Roye) who flew in from Atlanta especially for the affair.

Next on the agenda was the Presentation of Recipe Books. During the week, Valerie Williams collected recipes from each member and created beautiful recipe booklets with vivid red Santa hats on the cover, mirroring the invitation and reflecting the overall "Hats Off" theme. After distributing the recipe books, the Tea Party began with Vienda Bynum and Yolanda Hudson serving tea as members discussed recipes and shared stories appropriately termed "cookie party dramas" (i.e. less than perfect cookie baking experiences).

Also during the Tea Party, the cookies and packages were assembled by Cheryl Johnson-Tindall and Yvonne Alsup and were put on display for preview prior to formal Judging by Cookie Swap guests: Marlis Fowler (Chicago snowbird) Carol Osgood, Faith Walker, and Alma Singletary. At least two cookie and package entries competed heavily for the top prize and the judges had to reconvene for both "Best Cookie" and "Best Package" tie-breakers. Winners were finally selected and names were sealed in envelopes for presentation during the Awards Ceremony at the end of the affair.

During the Craft Show, attendees were given red velvet/feathered pouches which contained the 2007 craft item (metallic Santa hat ornament). The ornaments were personalized by the attendees, each detailing the Cookie Swap year, theme, and individual's name, etc. Also included in the pouches were gold-leaf signature cards which were circulated and signed by all in attendance so that everyone's card was uniquely personalized with signatures.

The Entertainment and Talent Show is always a fun-filled session and this year was no exception. In designing an activity that would coincide with the "Hats Off" theme, Donna McRae instructed participants to create unique and interesting hats to be modeled "down the Cookie Swap runway" in true Hollywood style. Attendees were also asked to select words

beginning with the first letter of their names to describe their "hat personae" (i.e. Dangerous Donna). As each model removed her Santa hat and replaced it with her own hat creation, the procession of hats began as founding member Mary Clowers and guest Faith Walker, et al cheered in support of their favorite. First down the runway was Alluring Alexis Crawford, followed by Charismatic Carol Osgood, Darling Dorothy Jones and Chic and Charming Cheryl Johnson-Tindall (who modeled two hats). Next up was Elegant Eleanor Brooks, Fancy Frances Cato, and Joyful Joyce Robinson. The hat parade continued with Marvelous Marlis Fowler; Nutty Nancy Waller; Shanghai Selma Robinson-Ayers; and Sweetshop Singletary (Alma - also a guest). Bringing up the rear was Vivacious Valerie Williams, Victorious Vienda Bynum, Yuletide Yvonne Alsup; and Dangerous Donna McRae was last to sashay her hat down the Cookie Swap runway.

Aside from sharing cookies and kindness during the holiday season, the Cookie Swap members also share a bond of camaraderie. It goes without saying then, that the upcoming nuptials of one of its members would be cause for added celebration, and a Special Champagne Toast to Tamara Dudley was next on the agenda. In a warm and sincere gesture of friendship, members and guests raised high their champagne flutes with a congratulatory toast to Tamara by Founder, Selma Robinson-Ayers - who presented her with gifts and wished her happiness, health, wealth and everlasting love!

Another wonderful part of the Holiday Cookie Swap activities is Gift Exchange, wherein participants share in the Spirit of Christmas by exchanging gifts. In creating a unique style of exchanging gifts this year, Frances Cato, Joyce Robinson and Eleanor Brooks decided to keep it simple. Continuing the "Hats Off" theme, names were concealed in party hats and participants were asked to choose a hat, thus revealing whose gift they would receive.

As in most occurrences,

the best is usually reserved for last and lastly (yet most importantly), the final act of the Holiday Cookie Swap is the Presentation of Awards Ceremony. Anxious and excited, attendees awaited as the envelopes containing the winners were handed to Selma for the formal presentations. With a drum roll, and a subtle "Ahem"... the first award was presented for "Best Hat", and the winner was... Alma Singletary for her Sweetshop Singletary "Hat Persona"! The next award was presented for "Best Package", and the winner was... Naomi Nesbitt (who designed a chimney hat package with Santa's body stuck inside and his feet dangling in the air)! Once wide-eyed and on pins and needles, the excited group was suddenly shrouded in an air of silence as the most prestigious award of the evening was presented for "Best Cookie", and the winner was... Frances Cato (whose cookie recipe was a Cherry-Oatmeal Surprise).

The day following the Cookie Swap is one of reflection and hibernation. Members who have been "burning the midnight oil" crafting packages, baking cookies and perfecting every aspect of their involvement in the party customarily do not rise until mid-day or later. They then spend hours on the phone rehashing the details, comparing notes and evaluating this year's affair. The remains of the day (their Cookie Swap invitations, recipe books, craft items, photos, videos and other memorabilia) will fill their hearts and minds with precious memories until next year when the "hustle and bustle" begins again. For now though, there is a sense of peace in the sharing of cookies and kindness at this year's Holiday Cookie Swap. For hostess Naomi Nesbitt, there is an additional element of joy: it's the first day of December and her home is already clad in festive attire. Her stockings are hung, her wreaths drape the door, her Christmas trees are sparkling and her Santas are all exclaiming... Ho, Ho, Ho!

On behalf of the Holiday Cookie Swap members, we wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



From left to right, Alma Singletary, Frances Cato, Selma Robinson-Ayers, and Naomi Nesbitt

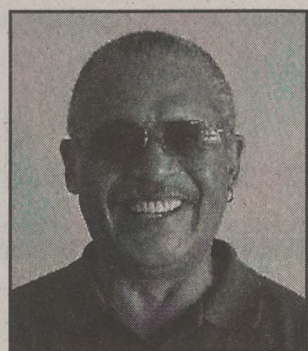
**SEE ADDITIONAL PICTURES ON PAGE A8**







# ENTERTAINMENT



## Rick Gee's JAZZ JAMM

### Black Nativity: Go Tell It On the Mountain!



Scene from "Black Nativity"

This was the third year that I attended the Westcoast Black Theater Troupe's (WBTT) presentation of Langston Hughes' lyrical poem "Black Nativity." Based on the Gospel of St. Luke, it is a glorious celebration that tells the original story of the nativity in scripture, verse, music and dance. It has become Sarasota's legendary Christmas event through the efforts and outstanding talents of the WBTT. It is the black community's Christmas gift to Tampa Bay. Without a doubt, it is an annual Tampa Bay area theatrical bombshell. A merry and joyous company of more than 40 singers, actors, dancers and musicians delivers its powerful message of joy, hope, victory and liberation.

The first half of the show begins with a medley sung by vocalists Nate Jacobs,

Chadwick, Lynette White and the Ensemble telling the story of the birth of Jesus. No musical could have opened with more excitement and emotion. If you weren't in the Christmas mood when you entered the theater, you certainly had the holiday spirit by the end of this medley.

The production is comprised of two Acts. There is little talking, but a lot of gospel music and dance throughout. It seemed as though every member of the cast could have been a lead vocalist. The rhythms were vibrant and seemed to give the dancers that extra lift making them appear to dance on air. Towards the end of the performance, the Ensemble sang "I've Got To Testify." Members in the audience, including yours truly, started clapping hands and shouting "Amen!" and "That's right!" At the very end, Chadwick, Jacobs and Tsadok Porter brought the house down with "Lord Send A Revival," bringing it all to a close with distinctive vibrancy and driving rhythm.

As in the past, lead vocalist Chadwick did a dazzling job

on the tunes that he performed. His voice is reminiscent in every way of the soul singing icon Marvin Gaye. He demonstrates a great stage presence and confidence, drawing in the audience with his smile and natural charisma. I had the opportunity to speak with Chadwick after the show. He said that when not in rehearsal for a WBTT performance, he performs with a musical group around the Tampa Bay area.

Chadwick began singing at the age of two, and made his first television appearance at the age of nine. He has performed with the BET Bobby Jones Gospel program, Showtime at the Apollo in New York, made appearances at the Pentagon and the White House and has sung the National Anthem at the Orlando Magic Basketball and Cincinnati Red Baseball games. One reviewer sums up his talent by saying, "Chadwick is a passionate show-stopper, with a voice that is undeniable, commanding you to hear, not just listen to." Remember the name "Chadwick." A talented young man who is well on his way to stardom.

If you missed this perform-

ance of Black Nativity, mark your calendars to attend these great WBTT presentations in 2008: The dynamic drama, "A Soldier's Play" (February 21 - March 1). The jazzy "Hot Mikado" (March 27 - April 5) and the soulful World Premiere "LOVE...Sung in the key of Aretha" (May 8 - 17) celebrating the music of the queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin and her influence on American culture. The public is invited to join WBTT on March 31, 2008 for their 2nd Annual Gala. WBTT will present Broadway legend Jennifer Holliday, the Tony and Grammy Award-winning singer, who took Broadway by storm! Hope to see you all at these wonderful presentations.

Remember to "Keep Jazz Alive" by "Supporting Live Jazz!"

Jazz fans - do you have any feedback? I would like to hear from YOU! You may visit my website at: rickgeesjazzjamm.com or email me at JazzJamm@aol.com. You may also mail your letters to Rick Gee's Jazz Jamm, c/o The Weekly Challenger, 2500 ML King St., S., St. Petersburg, FL 33705.

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FA37928

The Black Nativity story printed in the December 13 - 19 issue  
of *The Weekly Challenger* requires the following retraction:

Tanya LaReese debut CD "Ready or Not" only had her as the featured artist. Tanya did sing a duet  
with Patti Labelle during a charity concert held in Covington, LA for the Katrina victims.



PICK OF THE WEEK!  
**11-43-28**

**CASH 3**

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244

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**DOG  
DAYS**



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8-4

3-1

1-6

7-5

4-6

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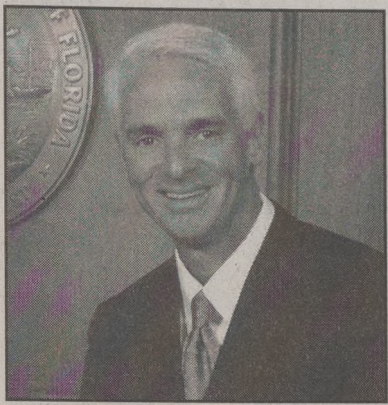
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# STATE NEWS

## Governor Crist Turns Orlando Home Into Stump Site On Property Taxes



Governor Charlie Crist

BY TRAVIS REED

ORLANDO (AP) -From a three-bedroom home for sale since July on a quiet dead-end street Friday, Gov. Charlie Crist started his campaign to get voters to give themselves a property tax cut. His message: approve the constitutional amendment on the Jan. 29 presidential primary ballot and instantly turn around the state's upside-down housing market.

"The day after this thing passes, you will see people, I would predict, go to the home they previously thought they could not go to, because they felt trapped in the home they were in," Crist said.

But not everyone agrees with Crist, especially because the projected average savings per homeowner is just \$240 off property taxes. It could be greater for homeowners trying to move into a bigger or smaller place.

So Crist is getting behind the "Yes on 1" campaign for the amendment to bring the message

to voters. He was in the driveway of Keith and Elizabeth Markowitz and their 23-month-old daughter Jordis. The couple wants to build a bigger, more energy efficient home on Florida's Panhandle, but can't sell the one they have or afford taxes on the new one. They were asked a day earlier if the governor could come.

Keith Markowitz paid \$1,892 in property taxes in 2007, according to county records, on a 2,645-square-foot home with a pool and market value of \$235,895. He estimated the plan would save him between \$1,500 and \$2,000, far above the state average, because he is figuring in the benefit of tax portability.

"Roll that into your mortgage, and that's substantial. Especially people that are living in or trying to move into premier areas," he said. "The taxes are ridiculous. You just can't do it — your taxes are \$6,000, \$8,000."

The constitutional amendment must be approved by 60 percent of voters. It would double the homestead exemption from \$25,000 to \$50,000, not including school taxes, and place a 10 percent assessment cap on all properties. It would also provide what Crist calls "portability" of the existing 3 percent assessment cap on primary homes — so residents could pay taxes on new homes similar to those on the place they move from.

Critics of the present system say it unfairly penalizes empty-nesters trying to move into

smaller homes and growing families looking for a larger one.

But the amendment has plenty of opposition from conservative tax advocates saying it doesn't cut enough to teachers, the Florida League of Cities and others arguing it will cripple education and public services.

"Reports we've heard from various trade groups and economic groups indicate that that is not at all likely, that the next day there is going to be a magic revitalization of the Florida economy," said Mark Pudlow, spokesman for the state teacher's union.

"I think it's important the voters understand that, the governor's optimism notwithstanding, there are real impacts in approving this property tax deduction," Pudlow said. "All of this comes at a time when by every indication Florida is at the bottom of rankings for states as far as funding for education."

Real estate agents support the amendment, as does business as a whole, so the campaign to pass it will be more vocal and better-funded. The plan benefits them by capping assessments on second homes, along with business properties and rentals.

On Friday, he called it a break for "everyday Floridians."

"You have the power to cut your own taxes Jan. 29th," he said. "You have been empowered by this great Florida Legislature to do what you've asked us to do over and over again."

# NATIONAL NEWS

## Al Sharpton: City Of Chicago Needs To Address Police Brutality Or He'll Work Against Olympics



Al Sharpton

BY SOPHIA TAREEN

CHICAGO, IL (AP) - The Rev. Al Sharpton threatened to lobby the International Olympic Committee to reject Chicago's bid for the 2016 Summer Games if city officials fail to do something about what he calls pervasive police brutality and misconduct.

"Chicago does not

symbolize a place that can hold an international event when it can't deal with its local problems," Sharpton told The Associated Press on Sunday. "They can't say to the world, 'Come to Chicago. We are an example; we are a beacon of light,' when you've got systematic abuse (by police)."

Sharpton said if Mayor Richard Daley and city officials don't respond in a matter of weeks, he will travel to other countries with West Side church leaders and victims of alleged police abuse to persuade members of the IOC to not chose Chicago.

The civil rights leader said the Chicago Police Department needs to be held more accountable and he will propose forming a police community review group and employ a

special prosecutor who reports directly to the justice system.

"Historically, the Olympic Games have had great benefits for cities that have hosted them," he said. "If Chicago were awarded the Games, it would be an asset for the city."

Chicago is one of seven cities bidding to host the 2016 Summer Games and is believed to be an early favorite along with Madrid, Spain; Tokyo; and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Selection will be made in October 2009.

In September, Sharpton opened a branch of his National Action Network in Chicago to address what he calls a "volatile relationship" between Chicago residents and police.

"I've not seen a city act more oblivious to a problem," Sharpton said. "It's like it doesn't exist."

## Hud Awards Nearly \$60 Million To Help Individuals Find Jobs

WASHINGTON, D. C. - The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development today awarded \$59.1 million to hundreds of public housing agencies (PHAs) across the nation to help low-income individuals get job training and employment placement.

The funding is provided through HUD's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program, which encourages communities to develop local strategies to help families who live in public housing or participate in HUD's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program obtain employment that will lead to economic independence and self-sufficiency. PHAs work with

welfare agencies, schools, businesses, and other local partners to develop a comprehensive program that gives participating FSS family members the skills and experience to enable them to obtain employment.

The funding is distributed to PHAs, which allows them to hire or retain FSS coordinators on staff to assist adult residents to find employment. The coordinators link participants to resources in the community that can help with their job search, such as job training opportunities, employment placement programs or local employers. The coordinators also help individuals locate childcare, counseling services, and transportation, which are often times

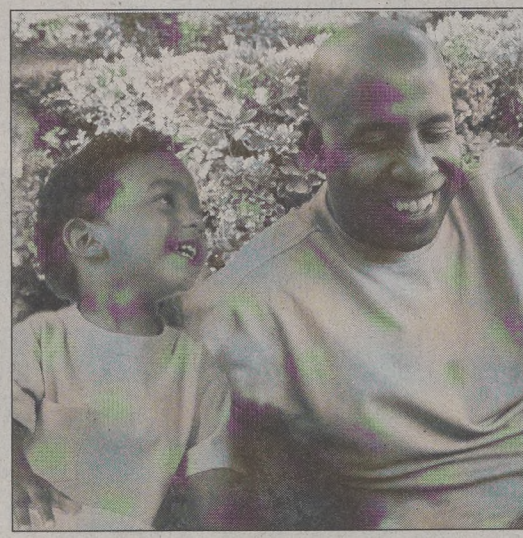
impediments to employment.

Participants, some of whom are on welfare, sign a contract that stipulates the head of the household will find suitable employment and the family will be off of welfare assistance within five years. Because public housing and voucher rents are tied to income, when income rises, rent rises. With the FSS program, the rent increase is paid to the PHA, but goes into an interest-bearing escrow account. If the participant successfully graduates from the program, he or she can use the escrow account for a variety of goals, including down payment on a home, starting a business, paying back debts or paying educational expenses.

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## DEBATERS

continued from front page

talk to one another or hearing them chat — usually loudly — on the cell phone. Let's face it, much of it is unintelligible. And what we can decipher does not paint a pretty picture. I had just finished speaking at a university when a young man approached me after my presentation. After every other fragmented sentence, he added: "Know what I am sayin'?" Finally, I told him no, I didn't know what he was saying. Further, if I knew what he was saying, there would be no need for him to say it again.

Many adults are also sloppy in their use of language. I've heard adults refer to "reverting back" too many times to count. How else can one revert? You can't revert forward. Or, they will ask you to "repeat that again." Repeat, by definition, is again. Even more prevalent are people saying they need to go to an ATM machine. ATM stands for Automated Teller Machine. So, when one says he or she is going to the "ATM machine," they are, in effect, saying they are going to the "automated teller machine machine."

Perhaps we'd hear less of this nonsense if more people had studied the art of debate, which is what inspired the movie. "The

Great Debaters" is based on a 1935 national championship debate between Wiley, a historically Black college in Texas, and the University of Southern California, the defending national champion. In typical Hollywood fashion, Wiley's opponent is changed to Harvard instead of U.S.C.

The debate coach, Melvin B. Tolson, was born in Moberly, Mo. and graduated from Lincoln University, a historically black college in Pennsylvania. Wiley hired him in 1924 to teach English and speech. He also coached the junior varsity football team, headed the theater club and formed the Wiley Forensic Society, the debating team. Over a 15-year-period, Wiley College lost only one of 75 debates.

Denzel Washington told reporters that both hip-hop and a form of poetry known as the spoken word have their roots in black oral tradition. "Our oral history is rich and deep, and debating is a big part of it," Washington said.

Tolson left Wiley in 1947 to teach at another HBCU, Langston University in Oklahoma. He later served two terms as mayor of Langston and Liberia declared him its poet laureate. He died in 1966.

Wiley, which has an enrollment of less than 900, is located

in Marshall, Texas, a town of 24,000 people approximately 140 miles east of Dallas. It has produced such distinguished alumni as James Farmer, the former head of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), and Herman Sweat, who won a landmark Supreme Court decision against the University of Texas' whites-only admission policy.

In recent years, the college has struggled with limited finances and resources. "The Great Debaters" is expected to shine a spotlight on the college, perhaps enabling it to increase fundraising and enrollment. The debate team, which was dismantled upon Tolson's departure, has been revived and students are eager to join upon learning about what the school calls a David vs. Goliath victory over a major white university with considerably more means.

Wiley President Haywood Strickland hopes the movie will strike a blow for all HBCUs, whose worth is often devalued. Representing only 3 percent of the nation's colleges and universities, HBCUs account for a quarter of all black college graduates.

"The Davids of the world are the Wiley Colleges of the world," President Strickland said. "We do have a slingshot called the mind."



## Unique And Interesting Hats Modeled At The Cookie Swap



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# CHALLENGER SPORTS

## BUCS CORNER



### Kickoff Return Helps Bucs Clinch NFC South, 37-3 Over Falcons



Michael Spurlock

BY FRED GOODALL

TAMPA (AP) - Micheal Spurlock started up the middle, cut to the outside and didn't stop running until making history for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The Bucs ran back a kickoff for a touchdown for the first time in the franchise's 32 seasons and routed the reeling Atlanta Falcons 37-3 Sunday to win the NFC South for the second time in three seasons.

Ronde Barber returned an interception 29 yards for a TD and Earnest Graham scored a touchdown rushing in a team-record sixth consecutive game to help Tampa Bay (9-5) improve to 5-0 in the division after going 0-

6 against NFC South rivals a year ago.

It's the fifth straight season that the team winning the NFC South finished last the previous season.

The loss was the fifth in a row for Atlanta (3-11). It capped a tumultuous week that began with suspended star quarterback Michael Vick being sentenced to 23 months in prison for his role in a dogfighting ring, a lopsided loss to New Orleans and the abrupt resignation of first-year coach Bobby Petrino.

While some thought Petrino's unexpected departure would give the Falcons something to rally around, things quickly got out of hand in the debut of interim coach Emmitt Thomas. Barber scored on the third play of the game and Spurlock's 90-yard kickoff return made it 14-3 midway through the opening

quarter.

The closest the Bucs had ever come to scoring on a kickoff was 2001, when Aaron Stecker returned one 86 yards against New Orleans.

Spurlock settled under Michael Koenen's kick at his 10, burst through a huge hole in the middle of the field and cut up the right sideline to the end zone untouched. The TD came on the 1,865th attempt made by 141 players since Tampa Bay's inaugural season in 1976.



Ronde Barber

Before Sunday, Tampa Bay's kickoff returns had covered 37,395 yards, or more than 21 miles.

Spurlock's TD and the performance of Tampa Bay's defense, which limited the Falcons to 133 yards, overshadowed the return of Bucs quarterback Jeff Garcia, who missed the previous two games with a lower

back bruise.

Garcia completed 15 of 25 passes for 105 yards and produced a touchdown and two field goals off three of Atlanta's four turnovers. He also tossed a 1-yard TD pass to Anthony Becht before being replaced by backup Bruce Gradkowski in the closing minutes.

Chris Redman was 4-of-15 for 34 yards in his second start for the Falcons, who have been unable to compensate for the loss of Vick. He was intercepted twice and also lost a fumble when sacked and stripped by Bucs rookie Gaines Adams to set up Graham's 1-yard TD dive late in the first half.

Atlanta avoided a shutout with Morten Andersen's 33-yard field goal in the first quarter. Jerious Norwood, who rushed for 73 yards on nine carries, helped set up the score with a 29-yard run.

Graham rushed for 79 yards on 22 carries and is on pace for a 1,000-yard season after entering training camp as the third-string tailback. Filling in for the injured Carnell "Cadillac" Williams and Michael Pittman, he has scored 10 TDs and gained 877 yards.

### NFL TRIVIA OF THE WEEK

Who holds the NFL record for most PAT's scored in a career?

*Hint:* Was signed by the Chicago Bears in 1949.

**Last Week's Answer:**

Former 49ers QB Steve Young

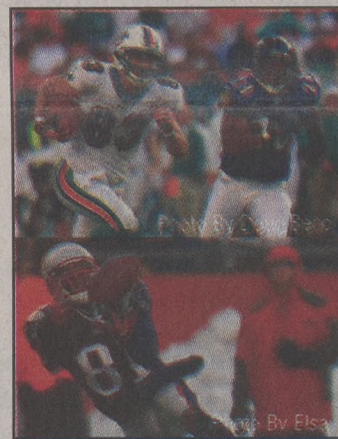
See Sports Page Next Week For The Answer!!

### AP TOP 25 BASKETBALL

- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. North Carolina (48) 9-0 | 18. Gonzaga 8-2       |
| 2. Memphis (19) 8-0        | 19. Arizona 7-2       |
| 3. Kansas (2) 10-0         | 20. Villanova 8-1     |
| 4. Texas (2) 10-0          | 21. Brigham Young 9-2 |
| 5. Georgetown (1) 8-0      | 22. Miami (FL) 9-0    |
| 6. Duke 9-0                | 23. Oregon 8-2        |
| 7. Washington State 9-0    | 24. West Virginia 8-1 |
| 8. UCLA 9-1                | 25. USC 6-3           |
| 9. Michigan State 9-1      |                       |
| 10. Marquette 7-1          |                       |
| 11. Pittsburgh 10-0        |                       |
| 12. Tennessee 9-1          |                       |
| 13. Indiana 9-1            |                       |
| 14. Texas A&M 9-1          |                       |
| 15. Clemson 8-0            |                       |
| 16. Butler 9-1             |                       |
| 17. Vanderbilt 10-0        |                       |



### Dolphins Finally End Slide, Patriots Move to 14-0



Top-Bottom: Dolphins WR Greg Camarillo; Pats WR Randy Moss

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Maybe all the Miami Dolphins needed was the right kind of inspiration.

The Dolphins got their first victory of the season after 13 losses on a day when their undefeated team of 35 years ago was honored. Perhaps it was the presence of seven Hall of Famers from that team as honorary captains that finally made the difference in a 22-16 overtime victory Sunday against reeling Baltimore.

"I talked to Coach Shula, and I told him we would win," Miami defensive end Jason Taylor said. "I'm glad we did. I can't lie to Coach Shula."

And he didn't, thanks to Baltimore's Matt Stover missing a 44-yard field goal in the extra period, then Miami's Greg Camarillo turning a short completion into a 64-yard touchdown.

"I've been looking forward to this day for quite some time," said coach Cam Cameron after getting his first NFL win as a head coach.

For one afternoon, the Dolphins got to feel what has become a habit for New England. The Patriots beat the New York Jets 20-10 in icy, windy conditions and became the second NFL team to go 14-0. The other was the 1972 Miami club that went on to take the Super Bowl.

"As long as that zero stays in that (loss) column, I'm cool with it," star receiver Randy Moss said.

Miami snapped a 16-game losing streak and sent Baltimore (4-10) to a franchise-record eighth consecutive defeat.

Camarillo broke over the middle on third down and had two steps on the secondary when he caught a pass from Cleo Lemon near midfield. Camarillo sprinted to the end zone for his first NFL touchdown, and his jubilant teammates ran after him to create a mob scene in the corner of Dolphin Stadium.

"Man, I haven't run in the open field in a long time," Camarillo said. "To see it open up, to see the end zone, to see everybody cheering, it was a great feeling."

With their first victory since Dec. 10, 2006, the Dolphins avoided matching the worst start in NFL history, 0-14 by the 1976 expansion Buccaneers and the 1980 Saints.

Host New England clinched home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs even though Tom Brady failed to throw a touchdown pass for the first time this season. Laurence Maroney ran for 104 yards, just the fourth time this season a New England rusher surpassed 100.

On New York's second offensive play, Richard Seymour slammed Kellen Clemens to the ground in the Jets' end zone, forcing a bad throw and an interception that Eugene Wilson returned 5 yards for a touchdown. Clemens didn't return.

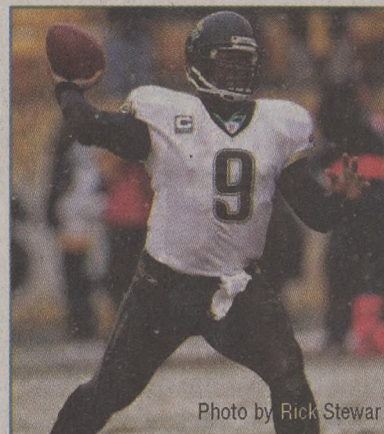
Coach Bill Belichick and Jets coach Eric Mangini, his former friend and protege who turned him in for using a sideline videocamera in violation of NFL rules after the season opener, had a pleasant exchange at game's end.

### UP NEXT FOR THE BUCS:

The Bucs (9-5) will travel to San Francisco to face the 49ers (4-10) Sunday December 23rd at 4:05 p.m.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BUCS!!! YOU'RE NFC SOUTH DIVISION CHAMPS!!!

### Garrard's 3 TD Passes Lead Jags Past Steelers 29-22



David Garrard

BY ALAN ROBINSON

PITTSBURGH (AP) - The snow, wind and chilly temperatures on a mid-December day in Pittsburgh made for perfect conditions on exactly the kind of day the Steelers love. Perfect, that is, for the weatherproof Jacksonville Jaguars.

Fred Taylor scored a decisive touchdown on a 12-yard run in the final two minutes while gaining 147 yards and the Jaguars withstood the bad weather and Pittsburgh's fourth-quarter comeback to beat the Steelers at their own game, winning 29-22 Sunday.

The Steelers (9-5), losing at home for the first time in eight games this season on a day seemingly built for them, fell into a tie with the Browns (9-5) for the AFC North lead after Cleveland beat Buffalo 8-0. The

Steelers, who could have clinched the division with a win and a Browns loss, own the tiebreaker going into their Thursday night game at St. Louis.

Pittsburgh's last chance of tying it ended when tight end Heath Miller was stopped a half-yard short of a first down on a fourth-and-7 pass play from the Jacksonville 45 in the final minute.

The Steelers were down 22-7 after David Garrard threw three touchdown passes and looked beaten after getting nothing going offensively in the half, only to tie it by scoring twice in 7 1/2 minutes with the help of two missed extra points by Jacksonville.

Garrard was intercepted for only the second time in 303 attempts. Anthony Smith's 50-yard return set up Ben Roethlisberger's 11-yard TD pass to Hines Ward. After the Jaguars punted, Roethlisberger, who threw three TD passes despite playing with a sore shoulder on a windy day, hit Nate Washington for 30 yards and the QB's team record-setting 29th scoring pass of the season.

Wide receiver Cedrick Wilson, lined up in the backfield, then found Holmes in the end zone for the tying 2-point conversion, but

Jacksonville needed only eight plays to drive 73 yards for the deciding touchdown. Taylor had his fourth consecutive 100-yard game and is averaging 121 yards in his last six against Pittsburgh, which lost to Jacksonville for the third season in a row.

The weather seemingly couldn't have been worse for the Jaguars, who hadn't played all season with a gametime temperature below 62. It was 35 and dropping, with an already soggy field made even mushier by a snow shower 25 minutes before kickoff that briefly coated the field. Snow flurries returned to keep the field white during the second half.

Only these Jaguars aren't a typical, warm-weather team. Coach Jack Del Rio has built a power-running team that can pound out the tough yards in bad weather yet rarely turns the ball over, and the Jaguars illustrated their versatility on their first two possessions of the second half.

Jacksonville, leading 10-7 following Garrard's 12-yard scoring pass to Ernest Wilford with about a minute left in the first half, put together exactly the kind of a drive that might have been expected of the Steelers in a key, mid-December home game — 20 plays for 74 yards over nearly 10 minutes.

Garrard finished it off with a

3-yard TD pass to Reggie Williams on third-and-goal, after the Jaguars went 0-for-6 on third downs in the first half. On this drive, they converted three times on third down with 8 to go or longer, and twice on fourth-and-1 with Garrard keeping the drive going with a 3-yard QB sneak to the Steelers' 28.

The big plays were Maurice Jones-Drew's 17-yard run on third-and-10 and Jones-Drew's 8-yard catch on third-and-8 at the 9.

Then, after Pittsburgh went three-and-out, Garrard found Dennis Northcutt behind Smith, yes, him again, on the Jaguars' next play for a 55-yard touchdown that made it 22-7. However, the Jaguars missed the extra point on both scores, the first after holder Adam Podlesh bobbled a snap and the second when Josh Scobee missed into the wind.

Smith's ill-advised guaranteed win riled up the Patriots a week ago before their 34-13 rout of Pittsburgh, which has lost three of five.

This was the third consecutive game played at Heinz Field in inclement weather, including tropical-like rain that fell throughout Pittsburgh's 3-0 victory over Miami on Nov. 26 and left the field nearly unplayable.



# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

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## PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO BE VOTED ON JANUARY 29, 2008 NOTICE OF ELECTION

I, Kurt S. Browning, Secretary of State of the State of Florida, do hereby give notice that an election will be held in each county in Florida, on January 29, 2008, for the ratification or rejection of a proposed revision to the constitution of the State of Florida.

### No. 1 CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION ARTICLE VII, SECTIONS 3, 4, AND 6 ARTICLE XII, SECTION 27 (Legislative)

**Ballot Title:**  
PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS; LIMITATIONS ON PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS

#### Ballot Summary:

This revision proposes changes to the State Constitution relating to property taxation. With respect to homestead property, this revision: (1) increases the homestead exemption except for school district taxes and (2) allows homestead property owners to transfer up to \$500,000 of their Save-Our-Homes benefits to their next homestead. With respect to nonhomestead property, this revision (3) provides a \$25,000 exemption for tangible personal property and (4) limits assessment increases for specified nonhomestead real property except for school district taxes.

In more detail, this revision:

(1) Increases the homestead exemption by exempting the assessed value between \$50,000 and \$75,000. This exemption does not apply to school district taxes.

(2) Provides for the transfer of accumulated Save-Our-Homes benefits.

Homestead property owners will be able to transfer their Save-Our-Homes benefit to a new homestead within 1 year and not more than 2 years after relinquishing their previous homestead; except, if this revision is approved by the electors in January of 2008 and if the new homestead is established on January 1, 2008, the previous homestead must have been relinquished in 2007. If the new homestead has a higher just value than the previous one, the accumulated benefit can be transferred; if the new homestead has a lower just value, the amount of benefit transferred will be reduced. The transferred benefit may not exceed \$500,000. This provision applies to all taxes.

(3) Authorizes an exemption from property taxes of \$25,000 of assessed value of tangible personal property. This provision applies to all taxes.

(4) Limits the assessment increases for specified nonhomestead real property to 10 percent each year. Property will be assessed at just value following an improvement, as defined by general law, and may be assessed at just value following a change of ownership or control if provided by general law. This limitation does not apply to school

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property related to the expansion of an existing business. The amount or limits of the amount of such exemption shall be specified by general law. The period of time for which such exemption may be granted to a new business or expansion of an existing business shall be determined by general law. The authority to grant such exemption shall expire ten years from the date of approval by the electors of the county or municipality, and may be renewable by referendum as provided by general law.

(d) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, there may be granted an ad valorem tax exemption to a renewable energy source device and to real property on which such device is installed and operated, to the value fixed by general law not to exceed the original cost of the device, and for the period of time fixed by general law not to exceed ten years.

(e) Any county or municipality may, for the purpose of its respective tax levy and subject to the provisions of this subsection and general law, grant historic preservation ad valorem tax exemptions to owners of historic properties. This exemption may be granted only by ordinance of the county or municipality. The amount or limits of the amount of this exemption and the requirements for eligible properties must be specified by general law. The period of time for which this exemption may be granted to a property owner shall be determined by general law.

(f) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, twenty-five thousand dollars of the assessed value of property subject to tangible personal property tax shall be exempt from ad valorem taxation.

SECTION 4. Taxation; assessments.--By general law regulations shall be prescribed which shall secure a just valuation of all property for ad valorem taxation, provided:

(a) Agricultural land, land producing high water recharge to Florida's aquifers, or land used exclusively for noncommercial recreational purposes may be classified by general law and assessed solely on the basis of character or use.

(b) Pursuant to general law tangible personal property held for sale as stock in trade and livestock may be valued for taxation at a specified percentage of its value, may be classified for tax purposes, or may be exempted from taxation.

(c) All persons entitled to a homestead exemption under Section 6 of this Article shall have their homestead assessed at just value as of January 1 of the year following the effective date of this amendment. This assessment shall change only as provided herein.

(1) Assessments subject to this provision shall be changed annually on January 1st of each year; but those changes in assessments shall not exceed the lower of the following:

a. Three percent (3%) of the assessment for the prior year.

b. The percent change in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers, U.S. City Average, all items 1967=100, or successor reports for the preceding calendar year as initially reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(2) No assessment shall exceed just value.

(3) After any change of ownership, as provided by general law, homestead property shall be assessed at just value as of January 1 of the following year, unless the

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district taxes. This limitation is repealed effective January 1, 2019, unless renewed by a vote of the electors in the general election held in 2018.

Further, this revision:

a. Repeals obsolete language on the homestead exemption when it was less than \$25,000 and did not apply uniformly to property taxes levied by all local governments.

b. Provides for homestead exemptions to be repealed if a future constitutional amendment provides for assessment of homesteads "at less than just value" rather than as currently provided "at a specified percentage" of just value.

c. Schedules the changes to take effect upon approval by the electors and operate retroactively to January 1, 2008, if approved in a special election held on January 29, 2008, or to take effect January 1, 2009, if approved in the general election held in November of 2008. The limitation on annual assessment increases for specified real property shall first apply to the 2009 tax roll if this revision is approved in a special election held on January 29, 2008, or shall first apply to the 2010 tax roll if this revision is approved in the general election held in November of 2008.

## ARTICLE VII FINANCE AND TAXATION

### SECTION 3. Taxes; exemptions.--

(a) All property owned by a municipality and used exclusively by it for municipal or public purposes shall be exempt from taxation. A municipality, owning property outside the municipality, may be required by general law to make payment to the taxing unit in which the property is located. Such portions of property as are used predominantly for educational, literary, scientific, religious or charitable purposes may be exempted by general law from taxation.

(b) There shall be exempt from taxation, cumulatively, to every head of a family residing in this state, household goods and personal effects to the value fixed by general law, not less than one thousand dollars, and to every widow or widower or person who is blind or totally and permanently disabled, property to the value fixed by general law not less than five hundred dollars.

(c) Any county or municipality may, for the purpose of its respective tax levy and subject to the provisions of this subsection and general law, grant community and economic development ad valorem tax exemptions to new businesses and expansions of existing businesses, as defined by general law. Such an exemption may be granted only by ordinance of the county or municipality, and only after the electors of the county or municipality voting on such question in a referendum authorize the county or municipality to adopt such ordinances. An exemption so granted shall apply to improvements to real property made by or for the use of a new business and improvements to real property related to the expansion of an existing business and shall also apply to tangible personal property of such new business and tangible personal

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provisions of paragraph (8) apply. Thereafter, the homestead shall be assessed as provided herein.

(4) New homestead property shall be assessed at just value as of January 1st of the year following the establishment of the homestead, unless the provisions of paragraph (8) apply. That assessment shall only change as provided herein.

(5) Changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to homestead property shall be assessed as provided for by general law; provided, however, after the adjustment for any change, addition, reduction, or improvement, the property shall be assessed as provided herein.

(6) In the event of a termination of homestead status, the property shall be assessed as provided by general law.

(7) The provisions of this amendment are severable. If any of the provisions of this amendment shall be held unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the decision of such court shall not affect or impair any remaining provisions of this amendment.

(8)a. A person who establishes a new homestead as of January 1, 2009, or January 1 of any subsequent year and who has received a homestead exemption pursuant to Section 6 of this Article as of January 1 of either of the two years immediately preceding the establishment of the new homestead is entitled to have the new homestead assessed at less than just value. If this revision is approved in January of 2008, a person who establishes a new homestead as of January 1, 2008, is entitled to have the new homestead assessed at less than just value only if that person received a homestead exemption on January 1, 2007. The assessed value of the newly established homestead shall be determined as follows:

1. If the just value of the new homestead is greater than or equal to the just value of the prior homestead as of January 1 of the year in which the prior homestead was abandoned, the assessed value of the new homestead shall be the just value of the new homestead minus an amount equal to the lesser of \$500,000 or the difference between the just value and the assessed value of the prior homestead as of January 1 of the year in which the prior homestead was abandoned. Thereafter, the homestead shall be assessed as provided herein.

2. If the just value of the new homestead is less than the just value of the prior homestead as of January 1 of the year in which the prior homestead was abandoned, the assessed value of the new homestead shall be equal to the just value of the new homestead divided by the just value of the prior homestead and multiplied by the assessed value of the prior homestead. However, if the difference between the just value of the new homestead and the assessed value of the new homestead calculated pursuant to this sub-subparagraph is greater than \$500,000, the assessed value of the new homestead shall be increased so that the difference between the just value and the assessed value equals \$500,000. Thereafter, the homestead shall be assessed as provided herein.

b. By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the Legislature shall provide for application of this paragraph to property owned by more than one person.

(d) The legislature may, by general law, for assessment purposes and subject to the provisions of this subsection, allow counties and municipalities to authorize by ordinance that historic property may be assessed solely on the basis of character or use.

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# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

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Such character or use assessment shall apply only to the jurisdiction adopting the ordinance. The requirements for eligible properties must be specified by general law.

(e) A county may, in the manner prescribed by general law, provide for a reduction in the assessed value of homestead property to the extent of any increase in the assessed value of that property which results from the construction or reconstruction of the property for the purpose of providing living quarters for one or more natural or adoptive grandparents or parents of the owner of the property or of the owner's spouse if at least one of the grandparents or parents for whom the living quarters are provided is 62 years of age or older. Such a reduction may not exceed the lesser of the following:

(1) The increase in assessed value resulting from construction or reconstruction of the property.

(2) Twenty percent of the total assessed value of the property as improved.

(f) For all levies other than school district levies, assessments of residential real property, as defined by general law, which contains nine units or fewer and which is not subject to the assessment limitations set forth in subsections (a) through (c) shall change only as provided in this subsection.

(1) Assessments subject to this subsection shall be changed annually on the date of assessment provided by law; but those changes in assessments shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the assessment for the prior year.

(2) No assessment shall exceed just value.

(3) After a change of ownership or control, as defined by general law, including any change of ownership of a legal entity that owns the property, such property shall be assessed at just value as of the next assessment date. Thereafter, such property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(4) Changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to such property shall be assessed as provided for by general law; however, after the adjustment for any change, addition, reduction, or improvement, the property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(g) For all levies other than school district levies, assessments of real property that is not subject to the assessment limitations set forth in subsections (a) through (c) and (f) shall change only as provided in this subsection.

(1) Assessments subject to this subsection shall be changed annually on the date of assessment provided by law; but those changes in assessments shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the assessment for the prior year.

(2) No assessment shall exceed just value.

(3) The legislature must provide that such property shall be assessed at just value as of the next assessment date after a qualifying improvement, as defined by general law, is made to such property. Thereafter, such property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(4) The legislature may provide that such property shall be assessed at just value as of the next assessment date after a change of ownership or control, as defined by general law, including any change of ownership of the legal entity that owns the property. Thereafter, such property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(5) Changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to such property shall be assessed as provided for by general law; however, after the adjustment for any change,

(d)(f) The legislature may, by general law, allow counties or municipalities, for the purpose of their respective tax levies and subject to the provisions of general law, to grant an additional homestead tax exemption not exceeding fifty thousand dollars to any person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner and who has attained age sixty-five and whose household income, as defined by general law, does not exceed twenty thousand dollars. The general law must allow counties and municipalities to grant this additional exemption, within the limits prescribed in this subsection, by ordinance adopted in the manner prescribed by general law, and must provide for the periodic adjustment of the income limitation prescribed in this subsection for changes in the cost of living.

(e)(g) Each veteran who is age 65 or older who is partially or totally permanently disabled shall receive a discount from the amount of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homestead property the veteran owns and resides in if the disability was combat related, the veteran was a resident of this state at the time of entering the military service of the United States, and the veteran was honorably discharged upon separation from military service. The discount shall be in a percentage equal to the percentage of the veteran's permanent, service-connected disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. To qualify for the discount granted by this subsection, an applicant must submit to the county property appraiser, by March 1, proof of residency at the time of entering military service, an official letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs stating the percentage of the veteran's service-connected disability and such evidence that reasonably identifies the disability as combat related, and a copy of the veteran's honorable discharge. If the property appraiser denies the request for a discount, the appraiser must notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the denial, and the veteran may reapply. The Legislature may, by general law, waive the annual application requirement in subsequent years. This subsection shall take effect December 7, 2006, is self-executing, and does not require implementing legislation.

## ARTICLE XII SCHEDULE

SECTION 27. Property tax exemptions and limitations on property tax assessments.--The amendments to Sections 3, 4, and 6 of Article VII, providing a \$25,000 exemption for tangible personal property, providing an additional \$25,000 homestead exemption, authorizing transfer of the accrued benefit from the limitations on the assessment of homestead property, and this section, if submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at a special election authorized by law to be held on January 29, 2008, shall take effect upon approval by the electors and shall operate retroactively to January 1, 2008, or, if submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next general election, shall take effect January 1 of the year following such general election. The amendments to Section 4 of Article VII creating subsections (f) and (g) of that section, creating a limitation on annual assessment increases for specified real property, shall take effect upon approval of the electors and shall first limit assessments beginning January 1, 2009, if approved at a special election held on January 29, 2008, or shall first limit assessments beginning January 1, 2010, if approved at the general election held in November of 2008. Subsections (f) and (g) of Section 4 of Article

addition, reduction, or improvement, the property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

SECTION 6. Homestead exemptions.--

(a) Every person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another legally or naturally dependent upon the owner, shall be exempt from taxation thereon, except assessments for special benefits, up to the assessed valuation of twenty-five five thousand dollars and, for all levies other than school district levies, on the assessed valuation greater than fifty thousand dollars and up to seventy-five thousand dollars, upon establishment of right thereto in the manner prescribed by law. The real estate may be held by legal or equitable title, by the entireties, jointly, in common, as a condominium, or indirectly by stock ownership or membership representing the owner's or member's proprietary interest in a corporation owning a fee or a leasehold initially in excess of ninety-eight years. The exemption shall not apply with respect to any assessment roll until such roll is first determined to be in compliance with the provisions of section 4 by a state agency designated by general law. This exemption is repealed on the effective date of any amendment to this Article which provides for the assessment of homestead property at less than just value.

(b) Not more than one exemption shall be allowed any individual or family unit or with respect to any residential unit. No exemption shall exceed the value of the real estate assessable to the owner or, in case of ownership through stock or membership in a corporation, the value of the proportion which the interest in the corporation bears to the assessed value of the property.

(c) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the exemption shall be increased to a total of twenty-five thousand dollars of the assessed value of the real estate for each school district levy. By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the exemption for all other levies may be increased up to an amount not exceeding ten thousand dollars of the assessed value of the real estate if the owner has attained age sixty-five or is totally and permanently disabled and if the owner is not entitled to the exemption provided in subsection (d).

(d) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the exemption shall be increased to a total of the following amounts of assessed value of real estate for each levy other than those of school districts: fifteen thousand dollars with respect to 1980 assessments; twenty thousand dollars with respect to 1981 assessments; twenty-five thousand dollars with respect to assessments for 1982 and each year thereafter. However, such increase shall not apply with respect to any assessment roll until such roll is first determined to be in compliance with the provisions of section 4 by a state agency designated by general law. This subsection shall stand repealed on the effective date of any amendment to section 4 which provides for the assessment of homestead property at a specified percentage of its just value.

(c)(e) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the Legislature may provide to renters, who are permanent residents, ad valorem tax relief on all ad valorem tax levies. Such ad valorem tax relief shall be in the form and amount established by general law.

VII are repealed effective January 1, 2019; however, the legislature shall by joint resolution propose an amendment abrogating the repeal of subsections (f) and (g), which shall be submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the general election of 2018 and, if approved, shall take effect January 1, 2019.



# OBITUARIES

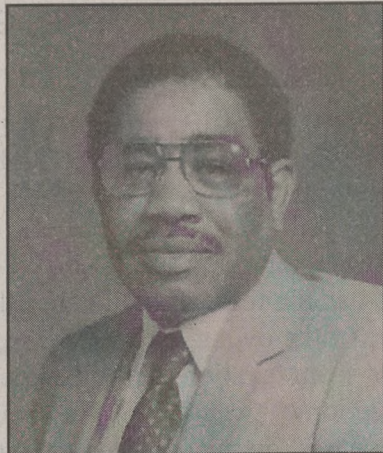


**Cora Mae Yarn**

Cora Mae Yarn was born on September 18, 1923 in Dunedin Florida. She departed this life on November 29, 2007.

She leaves to cherish her memories: two sons: Michael Yarn and wife Gina, and Lorenzo "Willie" Hodges and wife Renee Williams; two grand children: Garrett and Michaela Yarn; all of Albany New York; a beloved sister in law, Lillie White of Sebring, Florida; a special friend, Hazel Franklin of Clearwater, Florida; nieces and nephews from Florida (Clearwater & Orlando), Georgia, Philadelphia, Maryland, New Jersey and New York; and a host of relatives and friends.

McRae Funeral Home

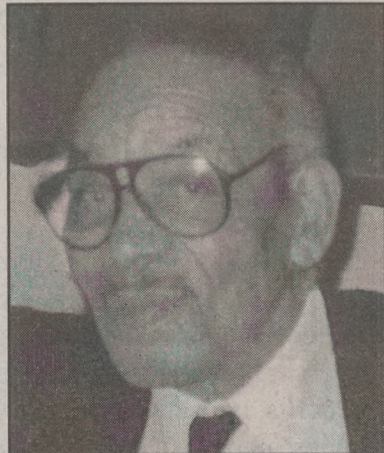


**Luther David Calloway, SR.**

Luther David Calloway, Sr. was born to Willie H. & Eva Calloway in Lily Georgia. He departed this life on November 30, 2007.

He leaves to cherish his memories: his wife, Mary Calloway; son Christopher Calloway and wife Sheryl, two granddaughters: Hope Calloway of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Somalia Calloway of Valrico; uncle Luther Clyde Calloway of Detroit, Michigan; a devoted niece, Jackie Thurston and husband Stephen of Miami, a devoted cousin, Natalie Prothro; nieces; nephews; cousins; god children and a host of other relatives and friends.

McRae Funeral Home



**Andrew "Acie" Cordell Brown**

Andrew Cordell was born to the late Jeff Essex Brown and Ella Bessie Law Brown on June 29, 1911 in Leliaton, Georgia. He departed this life on December 1, 2007.

He leaves to cherish his memories: wife, Sallie Mae Brown of Tarpon Springs, Florida; sons Andrew C. Brown, Jr. and wife Mary, Leon Poole and wife Bonnie of Gainesville, Florida, Henry Collins, Jr., Tildon Collins, Trenton Collins (Doris), all of Tarpon Springs, Florida, daughters Beatrice Betton of Holiday, Florida, Mary Lee Vickers, Jennie Pitts, of Tarpon Springs, Florida and Mary Dorsett and husband Sam of Tampa, Florida and a host of other relatives and friends.

McRae Funeral Home



**John Purdy**

John Purdy was born to the late R.C. "Sarge" Purdy and Ella Gamble Purdy on February 6, 1939 in Gainesville, Florida. He departed this life on December 3, 2007.

He leaves to cherish his memories: wife: Angelia Purdy, step son, Quincy Turner; Sons: John Purdy, Jr. and wife Odessia, Randolph Purdy of Orangeburg, South Carolina and Command Sergeant Major Tony H. Purdy and wife Leslie of Fort Bliss Texas; daughter, Anita Purdy, sister Jacqueline Purdy Graham and husband Wilbert; brothers R.C Purdy and wife Irene, James Purdy, Lee Andrew Purdy and Henry Gene Purdy and wife Cheryl; eight grand children and eight great grandchildren, uncle Walter O. Purdy and wife Mae; aunts Alice Mae Miles of Jacksonville, Florida and Mable Richardson of Ocala, Florida; nieces, nephews, and a host of relatives, friends and Bob Lee's Tire Company are grieving the loss of their dear loved one.

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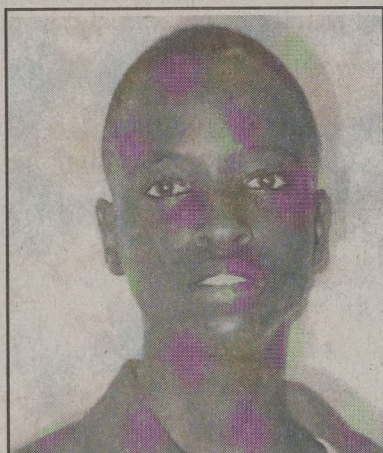
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**Jericho Reed**

Jericho Reed was born to Lillie Reed and Gary Wright on July 1, 1987 in St. Petersburg, Florida. He departed this life on November 28, 2007.

He leaves to cherish his memories: his mother, Lillie Reed Daniels; father, Gary Wright; four brothers: Donshay Reed, Gary Wright Jr, Joshua Reed and Adam Reed; maternal grandparents Ruthie and John Lewis; paternal grand mother: Ella Lee Wright, uncles, aunts, four nieces, one nephew and a host of family and friends.

Smith Funeral Home

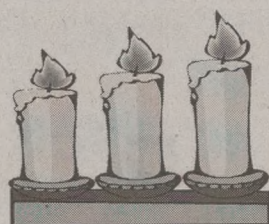


**Larry Love**

Larry Love was born to the late R.B Love and Mary Bell Love on January 07, 1936 in Tallahassee, Florida. He departed this life on November 28, 2007.

He leaves to cherish his memories: Daughters: Carolyn Love; son, Jaison Ernesto Love and wife Karen; stepsons: Michael Smith, Sherman Smith, Jr. and wife Kimberly and Zachary Smith and wife Seamarshal; brother Jerome Love; special grandson, Jaison, Jr. a special friend, Laura Murphy; and uncle Josephus Bynum, Sr.; step mother in law, Thelma Brown, Sr. brothers in law, Larry Bynum, Kenneth Williams, Roger Brown and Reverend Josephus Bynum, Jr. and wife Grace; sister in law, Eddy Beard, Geri Bynum-Martin, Sheri Brown, Regina Brown, Ivy Brown, Barbara Brown and Thelma Brown, Jr.; 17 grand children; seven great grandchildren; uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews and a host of family and friends.

Smith Funeral Home



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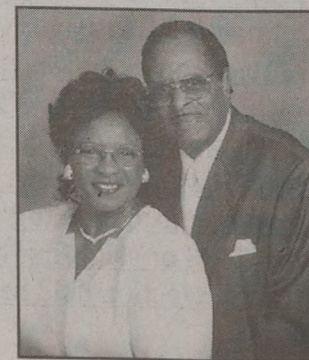
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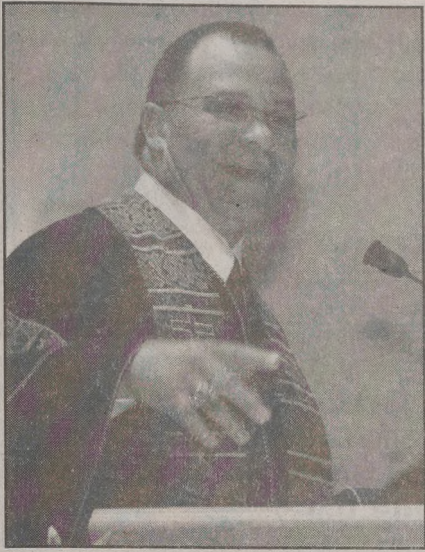
Prince and Edna Matt



# PASTOR'S CORNER

## Innkeepers Of Christmas

*"And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."*  
 Luke 2:7 (NIV)



Rev. Clarence Williams,  
Pastor, Greater Mt. Zion African  
Methodist  
Episcopal Church

I believe this nation is quickly approaching the day when we will celebrate Christmas without Christ. Today the world is filled with innkeepers who miss the meaning of Christmas.

If that is not the case, why, as we go through the shopping centers during this season, are there so many grim faces in our stores, so many exhausted, sleepy people in our churches the Sunday before Christmas? The innkeeper missed Christmas not because he was angry or because he was belligerent. He missed Christmas because of ignorant preoccupa-

tion. In other words he was so caught up in his job he missed Jesus. He got so busy with everything that was going on in his life, taking care of the inn, taking care of the guests, taking care of all the meals and needs of the inn; he couldn't stop to reflect upon the moment that was at hand. This is the condition many of us find ourselves in today. We are so focused on the lights, trees, the meals and the gifts we miss the moment which is at hand. "A Savior Is Born, a Son Is Given."

The chambers of their souls are filled with needless things,

iPods, PS2, XBOX, HD TVs, PDA's stuff that doesn't really matter. These things can keep us from realizing the real important things; the Messiah of God. Christmas is a time for us to clear out the chambers of our hearts and minds, and make room for the Messiah!

One of the great tragedies of our time is not that God has forgotten us, but that we have forgotten Him. We live in a society where retailers are more concerned with political correctness than spiritual awareness. Christ may not be the reason for Hanukkah, or Ramadan, or Halloween, or

Independence Day, however He is the reason for Christmas. It might be possible for me to accept the fact that we may forget Christ through the year, but to forget Christ at Christmas is unimaginable to me.

In St. Petersburg today, more than ever it is imperative that we remember God, and His Son Jesus Christ. This year as we gather around the tree, under the mistletoe, or at the family dinner; let us take time to publicly affirm, and acknowledge Christ as being the reason for the season. Christmas is an occasion for the world to embrace the Christ

who did so much for you and me. The question for us this holiday season is, "Have I forgotten God?" That is not a question just for those who do not know God through Christ; it is a question for all of us. It is possible for us to live as practical atheists and still be Christians in the sense that we go through our lives professing Christ without giving any time whatsoever to the One who came to make life meaningful for us. Let us not, at this time of the year, forget the One who has not forgotten us.

Don't be an Innkeeper but a flame keeper!

## CHURCH DIRECTORY



955 20th Street South • St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
 (727) 894-4311

Email: mzpmbc@gte.net

Website: www.mzprogressive.org

Worship Services ..... 7:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.  
 Sunday School ..... 9:00 a.m.  
 Prayer Service (Wed) ..... 6:00 p.m.  
 Bible Study (Wed) ..... 6:30 p.m.

### Mission Statement:

*Impact the world by equipping believers  
 to reach the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ.*



Rev. Louis M. Murphy, Sr.  
Senior Pastor

### BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

912 3RD AVENUE NORTH- ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33705

(727) 822-2089

BETHEL1894@KNOLGY.NET

BREAKFAST MINISTRY ..... SUNDAY 8:00 A.M.  
 CHURCH SCHOOL ..... 9:00 A.M.  
 MORNING WORSHIP ..... 10:30 A.M.  
 BIBLE STUDY ..... TUESDAY 7:00 P.M.  
 YOUTH CHURCH ..... MON & WED 5:30 P.M.



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### ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

3200 Fifth Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
 (727) 327-1373



Rev. Norris L.  
Martin, Sr. - Pastor

Early Morning Worship ..... 7:30 a.m.  
 Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
 Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
 Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer Meeting ..... 7:00 p.m.  
 Friday Prayer Meeting ..... 11:00 a.m.

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Wednesday  
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*"A Peculiar People Persuaded to Perform His Purpose"*

3001 18th Avenue South • Saint Petersburg, Florida 33712  
 Phone: (727) 327-9904 • Fax: (727) 322-0409

Church School - 9:30 AM • Morning Worship - 11:00 AM  
 Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting & Bible Study - 7:00 PM

### Saint John Primitive Baptist Church

Elder Benjamin Adams, Jr., Senior Pastor

Church address: 1002 Palmetto Street, Clearwater, FL 33755  
 Mailing address: P.O. Box 1235, Clearwater, FL 33755  
 Church Phone: (727) 443-1861 • Fax: (727) 443-0431  
 Email: sjpbce@tampabay.rr.com  
 Radio dial: 1340 AM 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
 Radio internet: tantalk 1340.com

### Scheduled Services:

Early Morning ..... 8:00 a.m.  
 Church School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
 Mid-Morning ..... 11:00 a.m.  
 Mid-week Family Night Bible Study ..... 7:00 p.m.

Theme: "Movers of the Christ Purpose"

*Edifying the Church; Evangelizing the Community (Acts 1:4-8)*



Elder Benjamin  
Adams, Jr.,  
Senior Pastor

### Victory Christian Center Church

3012 18th Avenue South  
 St. Petersburg, Fla. 33712  
 (727) 321-0911

www.victorychristiancenterchurch.com

### Schedule of Services

Sunday Worship\*  
 10:30 a.m.  
 Wednesday Bible Study\* - 7:00 p.m.  
 Friday Prayer - 7:00 p.m.  
 Intercessory Prayer - 9:00 a.m.  
 (except Wednesdays)



Claude S. Williams, Pastor

Victory Christian Center is a Word of Faith Church. For more information about the other services and ministries at Victory Christian Center, please call (727) 321-0911

\*Nursery and Youth Services Available

### GREATER MT. ZION AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

919 - 20th Street S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
 email: mchurch1@tampabay.rr.com  
 Website: www.greatermzioname.org



Rev. Clarence Williams,  
Pastor

Live Broadcast WRXB (Every Sunday • 8:30 a.m.) Tape Ministry • Bus Ministry  
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Early Morning Worship ..... 7:30 a.m.  
 Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
 Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
 Monday - Bible Study ..... 6:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday Vintage Bible Study ..... 11:00 a.m. - 12 noon  
 Prayer Service ..... 6:00 p.m.  
 Mid-Week Service ..... 7:00 p.m.  
 All Male Bible Study, Thursday ..... 6:30 p.m.

### First Baptist Institutional Church

3144 Third Avenue South  
 St. Petersburg, FL  
 Phone: 323-7518

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
 Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Come Worship With  
 the First Baptist Family



REV. WAYNE G.  
THOMPSON, PASTOR

### DOMINION WORSHIP CENTER MINISTRIES

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 St. Petersburg, FL 33711  
 727-321-8574

Early Sunday Service ..... 8:00 am  
 Sunday School Enrichment ..... 9:10 am  
 Sunday Service ..... 10:00 am  
 Monday-Corporate Prayer ..... 6:00 & 7:30  
 Wednesday-Corporate Prayer ..... 6:00am  
 Wednesday Bible Study  
 and Family Training Hr. .... 7:30 pm  
 Sunday- Corporate Prayer ..... 6:00 am



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 unitytempleoftruth@msn.com



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# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## BETHEL METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH

3455 - 26th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711  
Telephone (727) 327-0554 • Fax (727) 327-0240  
E-mail: bchurch5@tampabay.rr.com

Sunday Worship Service.....10:00 a.m.  
Sunday School .....9:00 a.m.  
Teen Summit (Wednesday) .....7:00 p.m.  
Bible Study (Wednesday) .....7:00 p.m.

*“God’s House In The City”*



Rev. Rickey L. Houston  
Pastor

## ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1301 - 37th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL  
(727) 321-6631 • www.stmarkch.org

### Schedule of Services

Church School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 10:45 a.m.  
Baptist Training Union ..... 5:00 p.m.  
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study  
Thursday 9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.



Rev. Brian K. Brown

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## Friendship

**Missionary Baptist Church**  
3300 31st Street South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
(727) 906-8300  
www.fmbctheship.org

Sunday .....7:45 A.M. and 11 A.M. Worship  
Sunday School .....9:30 A.M.  
Wednesday .....Noonday Bible Study and  
Bread of Life; 7 P.M. Prayer and Bible Study  
Thursday .....7 P.M. Youth Enrichment



Dr. John A. Evans,  
Pastor

*“Serving and Saving  
“Helping and  
“Inspiring and  
“Praying and  
“Instructing”*

## 10th Street Church Of God

207 - 10th Street North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33705  
(727) 898-9407



Rev. Ronald L. Bell  
Pastor

Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship .....11:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Evening Prayer .....6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Night Bible Study.....7:30 p.m.

*The church where  
what God’s word teaches  
is practiced!*

## Macedonia Freewill Baptist Church

900 - 16th Avenue South • St. Petersburg, Florida 33705  
Office (727) 895-4900 • Fax (727) 895-4990  
Bishop Raymond T. Baker, Pastor

M  
F  
W  
B  
C



Sunday Morning Service 8:00 a.m.  
Sunday Mid-Morning 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  
Communion is observed every first Sunday

*The Church Where Everyone is Welcome*

## 20th Street Church Of Christ

820 20th Street South  
St. Petersburg, FL  
Home: 896-8006



Bro. Robert Smith

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.  
Ladies Bible Class Monday.....7:00 p.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 p.m.  
Monday Evening Bible Class .....7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Evening Bible Class .....7:00 p.m.

## PRAYER TOWER CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

Elder Clarence Welch, Pastor  
Elder Carson Skinner, Assistant Pastor  
1137 37th Street South  
Saint Petersburg, FL 33711  
(727) 321-0670

### SERVICES

Sunday Sunday School – 10:30 a.m.  
A. M. Service – 11:30 a.m.  
YPWW (1st & 3rd Sunday) – 5:30 p.m.  
P.M. Service (1st & 3rd Sunday) – 6:30 p.m.  
P. M. Service (2nd & 4th Sunday) - 5:30 p.m.  
Tuesday Morning Prayer – 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Prayer Service – 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday Bible Study (for all ages) – 7:30 p.m.



## Queen Street Church Of God In Christ

1732 9th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
(727) 896-4356

**Elder A.P. Conage, Pastor**

8:00 A.M. - Sunday Service  
9:30 A.M. - Sunday School  
11:00 A.M. - Morning Service  
9:00 A.M. - Tuesday Prayer  
7:00 P.M. - Wednesday Bible Study

YPWW First and Third Sunday of each month after Morning Service

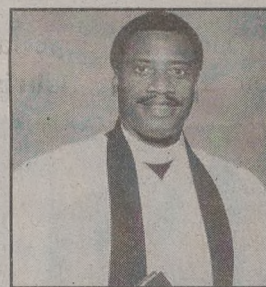
## THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Church School: .....9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.  
Devotion: .....10:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.  
Praise and Worship: .....10:20 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship Service: .....10:30 a.m.  
Bible Study each Tuesday: .....6:30 p.m.

*Van service is available by calling:  
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**THE ROCK OF JESUS IS LOCATED AT:  
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**Telephone: 727-327-0015 • Fax: 727-327-0021  
Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday  
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**



Rev. Frank W.  
Peterman, Jr.  
Pastor

## New Philadelphia Community Church

The Reverend Don A. Gaskin, Pastor

P.O. Box 15935 • St. Petersburg, FL 33733  
Wisdom School 9:50 A.M.  
Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Bible Study Fellowship 6:30 P.M. (Wed.)

The Reverend Aaron V. Gaskin .....Associate Pastor  
The Reverend Dr. Vikki T. Gaskin-Butler.....Associate Pastor  
Finance Ministry .....James Robinson  
Children & Youth Ministry .....Joyce Robinson  
Clerk Ministry .....Wyvonna McGee

*“A Church With Passion for God and Compassion for People”*

## NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

2120 - 19th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
(727) 896-5228

www.spreadinghopeonline.org



Rev. Carlos Senior,  
Pastor

### Sunday Services:

Church School ..... 9:00 a.m.  
Praise & Worship Service ... 10:30 a.m.

### Wednesday Services:

Midweek P.U.S.H.  
(Prayer Meeting/Bible Study) . . 7:00 p.m.

*“One Body, One Spirit, One Hope”*

**PLACE YOUR  
CHURCH AD  
HERE**

## THE OLD LANDMARK CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST



Supt. Mitchell L. Bryant  
and Lady Danita B. Bryant

Superintendent Mitchell L. Bryant, Pastor  
4201 - 6th Street South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33705  
Phone: 727/898-8616 • Fax: 727/502-9843

*“Grace and Peace Be Unto You from the Old  
Landmark Church Family”*

### Schedule of Services

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship – 11 a.m.  
Wednesday Night Bible Study – 7:30 p.m.  
Noon Day Prayer – Daily at 12 noon

*“A Church of Ordinary People Serving an Extraordinary God!”*

## EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

3501 37th Street South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33711  
(727) 327-5144

Sunday School .....9:30 A.M.  
Worship Services.....11:00 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.  
Wednesday .....6:30 P.M. (Prayer)  
7:00 P.M. (Bible Study)  
Friday .....6:30 P.M. Youth Night



Bishop  
Franklin Evans Sr.  
Pastor

*“We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight”*

**NEW LOCATION!!!**

**ST. PETE Beach**

203 73RD AVENUE | ST PETE BEACH, FL 33706 | 727.367.1900

**Sunday**

Corporate Prayer 10:30 am  
Worship Service 11:00 am

**Thursday**

Corporate Prayer 6:30 pm  
Bible Study 7:00 pm

**Saturday**

Corporate Prayer 9:00 am

Children's Church Available

**PASTOR BILL JESSIE**  
Revealing Truth Ministries  
St. Pete Beach, FL

**PASTOR GREG POWE**  
Pastor & Founder of Revealing Truth Ministries

www.revealingtruth.org



# CHURCH NEWS

## Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church

Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church under the leadership of our soldier of the cross, and drum major for justice, Dr. Rickey L. Houston, extends an invitation to the community to join us as we communicate God's Word at 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. and Bible Study and Teen Summit on Wednesday evening, at 7:00 p.m. We also encourage the community to make use of our Prayer Line (321-9645).

**December 2007 Upcoming Events**

31 Watch Night Service 10:00 p.m.

**January 2008 Upcoming Events**

5 Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m.

## St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church

The St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of its dynamic, spirited man of God, the Reverend Brian Kenneth Brown, its official staff of deacons and trustees, and the entire congregation of St. Mark, extend to the community at large its wishes that there would be an overflowing of God's blessings upon their lives. St. Mark is grounded in a Christ-centered doctrine that has as its central theme a belief that we are a haven of hope, help, and healing for a world hungering for and thirsting after the enlightened word of God. At St. Mark, we are Christians willing to work and partner in unity, praising God for His awesome gift, His son Jesus Christ.

**Calendar for the month of December, 2007**

- Dec. 22 Christmas with the Community from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day
- Dec. 27-28 Combined Session of Congress #2 & Congress #6
- Dec. 30 Mission Emphasis Sunday and Dedication of Newly Elected Officers
- Dec. 31 Watch Night Services at St. Mark M.B.C. joined by St. John, Union Baptist and Concord Baptist

**St. Mark Offers ...**

- **Sunday School** is held for both children and adults of all ages. Sunday School starts each Sun. morning at 9:30 a.m. All are invited to come out and join us.
- **Baptist Training Union** is each Sun. at 5:00 p.m. Members

and the general public are invited to come out and study the Bible with us and learn "What Baptists Believe".

- **Children and Youth Ministry Meetings** are held every Mon. at 6:00 p.m. Children in the community are welcomed to join us.
- **Sunday School Teachers' Meeting** is held every Tues. at 7:00 p.m.
- **Senior Hour of Power Bible Study** is held every Thurs. at 9:30 a.m.
- **Prayer Meeting and Bible Study** every Thurs. evening at 7:00 p.m.
- **St. Mark After School Tutoring Ministry:** Neighbors Involved in Kids Education (N.I.K.E.), Open to all school age children every Tues., Wed., and Thurs. from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- **Destination Graduation Phase II** is now in progress and offers certified teachers, Counselors and FCAT Specialists each Tues. and Wed. evening from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tues. are for high school seniors only needing assistance with applying for colleges, financial aid and scholarships, and writing essays for college admissions and scholarships. Wed. nights are for ages 4 years to 18 years. Certified teachers are available to assist with reading comprehension and application; reading readiness for children 4 to 6 years; Literary analysis/reading comprehension for Middle and High School as well as FCAT, ACT and SAT preparation for those who still need to pass or make a good score on these tests.
- **St. Mark Technology Lab:** The St. Mark Computer Lab will be open and available for use on Tues. and Wed. evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

## New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

**"ONE BODY, ONE SPIRIT, ONE HOPE"** Reverend Carlos L. Senior, Pastor

Pastor Carlos Senior and the New Hope family invite you to worship with us on Sunday morning. Our morning begins at 7:45 a.m. with early morning service. Holy Communion will be held during this service. Sunday school begins at 9:00 a.m. with classes available for all ages. Bring the entire family to learn more about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Worship continues at 10:30 a.m. with the New Hope Mass Choir leading the congregation in praise. The Music team consists of Michael McKenny, Vernard McKenny, Marcus Childs, and Corey Givens. The Bread of Life will be served by our Esteemed Pastor, Reverend Carlos L. Senior.

The New Hope family wishes each of you a **Merry Christmas! Remember: "Jesus is the reason for the season."**

**MIDWEEK P.U.S.H.** (Prayer, Understanding and Spiritual Healing)

- Bible Study (Adult and Youth) and prayer will be held on Wednesday evening. Prayer begins at 6:00 p.m. Bible class begins at 7:00 p.m. Come let's study the word together!
- Prayer band is held on Thursday mornings at 11:00 a.m. "Effectual, fervent prayers of the righteous availeth much." Come let's praise God together.

**Calendar of Events - December, 2007**  
(Call 727-896-5228 for event information)

- Dec. 22.....Women of Hope Ministry Meeting
- Dec. 30.....Sunday 5th Power
- Dec. 31.....Watch Night Service 10 p.m.

***"To give meaning to Christmas, give Christ first place."***

## Mt. Zion A.M.E.

**"Hark! The Herald angels sing, Glory to the new born King!"**

Get ready; prepare your hearts as we await the celebration of our dear Savior's Birth. The message is still loud and clear "The King is Coming." As we continue in this Advent season let us be mindful that Jesus is the Reason for the Season, Jesus was born to die for the sins of the world, sacrificing His life so that we might have life. Remember the most precious gift we can share one with another is Jesus the Christ, this Christmas season and all year long. God wants our hearts, minds and soul; in fact He wants us to live for Him.

Mt. Zion A.M.E. church located at 919 20th Street South, St. Petersburg, under the leadership of Rev. Clarence Williams, its official staff and the entire church family extends to the community at large an invitation to join us in worship this Sunday. Our doors are always open and we would love to have you join us.

Services begin at 7:30 a.m., there we let go and let God be God. The Youth Choir will

render song service throughout the day. Church School will commence at 9:30 a.m.; we invite families to come study the Word of God as we seek to grow spiritually together. Our contemporary worship service is at 11:00 a.m. The spirit is always high. Pastor Williams will deliver two power packed messages. Come be blessed!

**\*\*All weekly ministries are suspended for the week; spend time with your families.\*\***

**Upcoming Events:**

- December 24th Morning Worship Service, 7:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Candle Light Worship, 6:30 p.m.
- December 31st Morning Worship Service, 10:00 a.m. Watch Night Worship, at 10:00 p.m.

Thought for the week: "In order to be Blessed, You must be a Blessing!"

Be blessed and have a Jesus filled week.

## Macedonia Freewill Baptist Church

900 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Bishop Raymond Baker, Pastor

Presents

**New Year's Eve HBO Holy Ghost Blow Out  
December 31, 2007 • 8:30 p.m. to Midnight**

Featuring  
The Brothers Of Revelation  
WBC Mass Choir  
Destiny Praise Dancers  
Prophet Wayne Housz

All Are Welcome - Family, Friends And Neighbors

## New Philadelphia Community Church 4th Sunday of Advent - Christmas/Kwanzaa Observance

The candle for Mary, God's obedient servant, will be lit during final Sunday in Advent season. As followers of Christ reflect on Mary, specific focus is on her favor with God to bear the Son in human form. Children and youth will celebrate this holy event and Kwanzaa at mid-morning worship service. Parents, family members, friends, and church are expected to be present on Sunday.

Final rehearsal for Christmas/Kwanzaa program will be Saturday morning. Parents are urged to have children present and on time. Rehearsal will commence promptly at 11:30 and last until 1:00. A repast for all participants will be held at conclusion of rehearsal. Food donations by members should be given Joyce Robinson.

Members of church family are reminded of holiday baskets for Christmas. All food items should be brought to worship service on Sunday. Distribution will take place on Sunday afternoon and Monday morning. Clothes for children should also be at the church on Sunday. For information on children/youth sizes of families, please contact Victoria Gaskin.

Bible Study will resume on Tuesday, January 8, 2008. All members of church family are urged to make weekly Bible Study and Sunday morning Wisdom School a spiritual priority, for the coming New Year. All study materials are provided.

**GOOD NEWS!**  
**Your Church News**  
**Can Be Placed Here!**

Contact The Weekly Challenger to learn  
how your churches special events and weekly  
schedules can be placed in this space.

**Don't miss this opportunity!!**

## Life Changing Ministries Of The World

900 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701  
727-278-6868 • lcmow04@yahoo.com

On behalf of Apostle Michael and Evelyn Long,  
we would like to invite you to fellowship with us.

**Schedule of Services**

**Sunday**

Christian Education . . . . . 10:30 a.m.  
Worship Service . . . . . 11:30 a.m.  
Young People's Union . . . . . 6:00 p.m.  
Evening Service . . . . . 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday**

Bible Study . . . . . 7:30 p.m.



LAY-54087 (INC\_LG) 12/20/07

# Publix®

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Best wishes for a season filled with delicious food and holiday cheer.

**1.49**  
lb  
**Publix**  
**Semi-Boneless**  
**Smoked**  
**Whole Ham**  
Fully-Cooked,  
Old-Fashioned Flavor,  
Lean & Tender  
**SAVE UP TO .70 LB**



**Standing Rib Roast** ..... **5.99** lb  
Publix Premium Certified Beef,  
USDA Choice, Beef Rib  
**SAVE UP TO 4.00 LB**



**Tilapia Fillets** ..... **4.99** lb  
Fresh, Farm-Raised  
**SAVE UP TO 1.40 LB**



**Small Fresh Fruit and Cheese Platter** ..... **3.70**  
Fresh Fruits of the Season,  
Accompanied by Various Cheeses,  
Serves 8 to 12, Also Available  
in Larger Sizes, each  
**SURPRISINGLY LOW PRICE**



**Boar's Head® Ovengold Breast of Turkey** ..... **7.99** lb  
Sliced Fresh  
in the Publix Deli  
**SAVE UP TO .30 LB**  
Publix Deli proudly features  
a full line of Boar's Head® products.



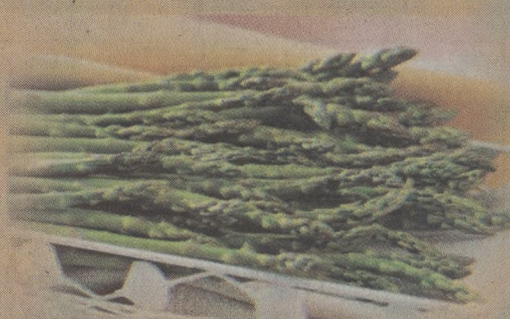
**Golden Ripe Whole Pineapple** ..... **2.99**  
Or Peeled and Cored, Costa Rican Grown,  
High in Vitamin C, each (Chunks ... lb 3.99)  
**SURPRISINGLY LOW PRICE**



**Publix Bakery Pumpkin Pie** ..... **5.99**  
Filling Made Using Fresh Harvest Pumpkin With Just  
the Right Spices, From the Publix Bakery, 30-oz pkg.  
**SAVE UP TO 1.30**



**Red Potatoes** ..... **2.50**  
Or White, or Idaho,  
High in Vitamin C,  
5-lb bag  
**SURPRISINGLY LOW PRICE**



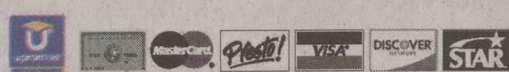
**Asparagus** ..... **2.99** lb  
Perfect  
for Steaming  
**SAVE UP TO 1.00 LB**



**Fresh Express Salad Blend** ..... **2.40**  
Assorted Varieties,  
Ready to Eat for the Busy  
Lifestyle, 5 to 12-oz bag  
**SAVE UP TO 2.98 ON 2**



**Danish Pecan Ring** ..... **3.99**  
Tender Danish Dough  
With Moist Pecan Filling,  
Topped With Lots of Pecans,  
From the Publix Bakery, 16-oz size  
**SAVE UP TO .70**



Prices effective Thursday, December 13 through Monday, December 24, 2007.  
Only in the Following Counties: Sumter, Collier, Lake, Hernando, Citrus, Polk and Osceola  
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**Publix will be closed Christmas Day, December 25, 2007.**  
Merry Christmas! Because Publix understands the holidays are important to our associates and customers, our stores will close at 7 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24 and will be closed on Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25, so that we may all spend this special day with family and friends. For your added convenience, Publix will be open until 10 p.m. Monday-Sunday, December 17-23 (unless regular store hours are later).